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American Spaces

BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

August 2023

With just over 600 locations, ECA's Office of American Spaces engages people worldwide through programming and resources. American Spaces support U.S. foreign policy goals and strategically promote public diplomacy.

With transfer season and summer holiday travel well underway, we will resume twice monthly American Spaces Newsletters next month! Yet there is still plenty of information to share. From MOOCs in Burundi to combating climate change in Chile, from a new feature called "Social Media: Engage & Grow" to a new Kanopy film, we are sure there are some programming ideas you can use at your American Space!

As always, thank you for sending in your comments and suggestions to americanspaces@state.gov. We hope you enjoy this issue!

From the Field:

American Spaces Network in Chile Hosts Series of STEM Workshops to Combat Climate Change



The American Spaces networks in **Talca, Santiago, Valdivia and Temuco, Chile**, kicked-off their virtual three-week workshop series on July 25, 2023 focused on using robotics to combat climate change. By the end of the workshops, 128 students will learn how to use robotics to measure air quality and learn ways to combat the climate crisis through techniques they learn through the series.

Expanding Opportunities with MOOCs in Burundi



Embassy Bujumbura's American Spaces Program Specialist Jean de Dieu Nkurunziza conducted an outreach session at the University of Burundi to launch MOOC English courses. The social media engagement following the session was the highest of 2023 for their network, with more than 15,000 views. MOOC courses are popular with a large audience of Burundian youth who are struggling to receive English and computer

literacy training. Skills building programs not only grow short term people-to-people connections, but in the long term, can influence policy and shape the future of education systems and job creation.

Faces of American Spaces:

Lynne Scheib



We are bidding farewell and heartfelt congratulations to **Lynne Scheib, Partnerships Coordinator** in the **Office of American Spaces** on her impending retirement!

On September 1, 2023, Lynne will officially retire after 43+ years of full-time government service. This grand journey took her from **NASA** (1980) to **Smithsonian's Radiation Biology Lab and Natural History Museum** (1980-82) to the **National Institutes of Health (NIH)** (1983-87) and to the **Executive Office of the President Library** (1987-2001) before she joined the **Department of State** in 2001.

As **Valorie Lee, REPS-REA** shared: **Lynne** is that special colleague - the one you would never know was having a bad day, the one whom could always be counted on to add necessary information and valuable insight.

How many of these **American Spaces** programs of Lynne's do you recall?

- America 21: Books in Translation
- 50 States in 50 Days
- Matt Shepard is a Friend of Mine
- Crip Camp
- MIUSA Exhibit
- Microsoft Arcade

- eSports Competition
- ADA 30th Anniversary
- Farmcraft 2022
- United with Ukraine Game Jam

Thank you, **Lynne**, for your breadth of knowledge and commitment to innovation. We will miss you and your positive spirit!

Did You Know?

New Kanopy Film



[*The YouTube Effect*](#) is the most recent film selected for use across the American Spaces network. It is available through [Kanopy](#) for screenings. Please follow the steps outlined in the [Showing Films in American Spaces](#) guidance for viewing in your space.

If there is a film that you would like us to consider purchasing, please remember to reach out to your REPS! Thank you!

U.S. Speaker Spot



As a partnership with the [Office of the U.S. Speaker Program](#), we feature speakers available for virtual programs on priority themes each month. For more information about the U.S. Speaker Program, and to submit a program request, please reach out to your local Public Diplomacy Section.

For this month's issue, we are featuring speakers for **Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 - October 15)**.

[Antonio Tijerino](#) is the president and CEO of the Hispanic Heritage Foundation (HHF), a nonprofit organization that works to increase the number of Latina and Latino leaders in the community, classroom, and workforce. Under Tijerino's leadership, HHF maintains a network of 150,000 Latinos aged 15-35 mobilized in areas such as STEM, tech, entrepreneurship, finance, and media. Tijerino also is the executive producer of the Hispanic Heritage Awards, and has been recognized by the White House, U.S. Congress, Fortune 500 companies, nonprofits, and the Government of Mexico. He is also fluent in Spanish.

To learn more about all of this month's speakers, please visit the full [Speaker's Spot](#) on the American Spaces website.

New Resources to View and Use

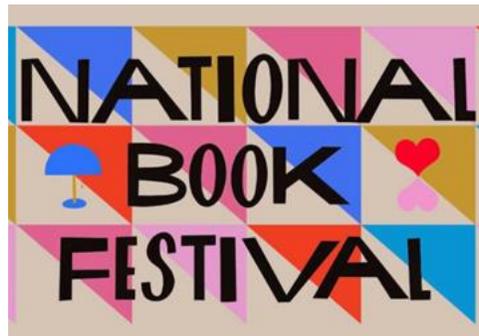
The 2023 Smithsonian National Education Summit is available to stream online here: [Smithsonian National Education Summit](#). Stream all 28 virtual webinars and conversations related to themes of STEAM education, reckoning with the United States racial past, life on a sustainable planet, and integrated arts education.



Free online professional development courses for educators from the **National Geographic Society: [Online Courses](#)**. Many options in length and content, including National Geographic's project-based learning (PBL) strategy, the Geo-Inquiry Process, and incorporating storytelling as a strategy in ways that inspire change.

Join the **U.S. Department of Education's [Office of Special Education Programs \(OSEP\) for Smart Beginnings 2023](#)** to learn about resources for supporting children with disabilities. OSEP is posting resources and presentations from this mini-conference to assist educators and others!

[Civics for All of US](#) is a new education initiative from the **National Archives** that promotes civic literacy and engagement. Learn about the United States Constitution and voting rights today.



August 12 was the **[National Book Festival](#)** sponsored by the **[Library of Congress](#)**! Many events and author talks were recorded, so check it out and let us know if your favorite author participated!

Social Media: Engage & Grow

A new feature for the American Spaces Newsletter is Engage & Grow. You will find social media related links in this section. From hashtags to training to other social media marketing resources, we will highlight them here in upcoming issues.

The **Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Office of Public Affairs and Strategic Communications (PASC)** will be promoting the following themes in the coming months:

- **September--Representation Matters**
- **October – The Power of Partnership**
- **November - #StudyWithUs**

- **December – Shared Peace and Prosperity**

Some Overall Hashtags and Handles to

Use: #ExchangeOurWorld #AmericanSpaces

Twitter: @ECAatState; @ECA_AS; @StateDept

Instagram: @ExchangeOurWorld; @StateDept

Facebook: @ExchangeProgramsatState; @U.S. Department of State

Some Potential Hashtags by Month:**August--**

August 19--World Photo Day #WorldPhotoDay

- We would love to see what the #ExchangeOurWorld #AmericanSpaces community has been up to! Please share your posts!

September –

Hispanic Heritage Month – #HispanicHeritageMonth

September 5 – Labor Day - #LaborDay

October –

Breast Cancer Awareness Month –

#BreastCancerAwarenessMonth

October 10 -- Columbus Day #ColumbusDay

October 31 -- Halloween

#Halloween

November –

Native American Heritage Month –

#NativeAmericanHeritageMonth

November 11 – Veterans Day - #VeteransDay

November 24 – Thanksgiving Day - #ThanksgivingDay

December –

Human Rights Month – #HumanRightsMonth

December 7 – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day -

#PearlHarborRemembranceDay

December 25 – Christmas Day - #ChristmasDay

 Has your American Space joined Meta's latest social media platform, "Threads"? **Please let us know** and kindly share your account information, so we can follow your updates. 

Calendar of Events

As always, the full calendar is available on the American Spaces [website](#).

August is International Peace Month

August 6: Sisters' Day - see official [site](#)

August 9: International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (official [site](#) and [toolkit](#))

August 12: International Youth Day - see official [site](#) and [Teacher's Guide on Volunteerism](#)

August 19: World Humanitarian Day - see official [site](#)

August 21: International Day of Victims of Terrorism - see official [site](#)

August 22: International Day Commemorating Victims of Violence based on Religion or Belief (official [site](#) and [toolkit](#))

August 23: International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition (official [site](#) and [toolkit](#))

August 26: Women's Equality Day - see [Photos](#)

August 29: International Day against Nuclear Tests - see official [site](#)

September: [National Wilderness Month](#)

September 2: End of WWII - [History Channel](#)

September 4: Labor Day - see official [site](#)

September 6: Read a Book Day

September 8: International Literacy Day - see official [site](#)

September 11: Patriots Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance (9/11 Anniversary) - see official [site](#)

September 15 - October 15: Hispanic Heritage Month - see [toolkit](#)

September 15: International Day of Democracy - see official [site](#)

September 17: Constitution Day - see [toolkit](#) and [English language resources](#)

September 21: International Day of Peace - see official [site](#)

September 22: World Rhino Day - see official [site](#)

September 25: Comic Book Day - see official [site](#)

September 27: World Tourism Day - see official [site](#)

September 29: World Heart Day - see official [site](#)

October: [Hispanic Heritage Month](#) (continues), [Cybersecurity Month](#), [National Disability Employment Awareness Month](#)

October 1: [International Day of Older Persons](#)

October 2: [Child Health Day](#)

October 4 - 10: [World Space Week](#)

October 9: Columbus Day (United States Federal holiday also known as Indigenous Peoples' Day)

October 11: [International Day of the Girl Child](#)

October 16: [World Food Day](#)

October 17: [International Day for the Eradication of Poverty](#)

October 24: [United Nations Day](#)

October 25: [National Art Day](#)

October 27: [International Religious Freedom Day](#)

October 29: [International Internet Day](#)

November: [National American Indian and Alaskan Native Heritage Month](#),

November 3: [Sandwich Day](#)

November 6: [International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict](#)

November 9: [World Freedom Day](#), [Anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall](#), Go to a Museum Day

November 11: [Veterans Day](#)

November 13 - 19: [Global Entrepreneurship Week](#)

November 13 - 17: [International Education Week](#) and [Toolkit](#)

November 15: Locally Employed Staff Recognition Day

November 16: [International Day for Tolerance](#)

November 19: [Women's Entrepreneurship Day](#)

November 20: [World Children's Day](#)

November 23: [Eat a Cranberry Day](#) and Thanksgiving Day

November 25: [International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women](#)

Thanks to all of you who have shared your programming ideas and highlights with your colleagues through our American Spaces FB page. You can continue to share your news and information by emailing us at AmericanSpaces@state.gov. If you have any questions or content to add, email Karlene Noel Jennings at JenningsKN@state.gov.

To add someone to this newsletter, email us at AmericanSpaces@state.gov.



American Spaces

Want to learn about more events in your area or causes you care about? Tell us about yourself and your interests here:

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